Target for providing Cellular Connections

35. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL has fixed any target for providing cellular connections in the year 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal for going by any fixed target in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) BSNL has planned to introduce Cellular Mobile Services in the country in the year 2001 in a phased manner, as and when any specific local network gets ready.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

(d) It is planned to provide 15 lakh lines of equipment for this service during the year 2001-02.

Encouragement of Hindi Correspondence in the Ministry of Communications

36. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Hindi Translators/Hindi Officers/ Assistants created in the Ministry and its allied PSUs/attached and subordinate offices for propagation of Hindi as official language and encouragement of Hindi Correspondences;

(b) the number of such posts lying vacant and since when; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the steps taken to fill up such posts urgently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Information in respect of subordinate offices/undertakings/

enterprises and organisation of the Department of Telecom, is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course of time. As far as Department of Post is concerned, the information is given in the statement.

Statement

Information regarding number of sanctioned and vacant posts of Hindi Translators/Hindi Officers/Assistants is given below:

SI. No.	Name of Post	Sanctioned posts	Vacant posts
1.	Hindi Officer	22	07
2.	Hindi Translator	141	85
3.	Hindi Assistant	01	Nil

In different circles the position of vacant posts is different,but no circle is having any vacancy for more than two years.

(c) The general reasons for these vacancies are transfer to other Departments/Ministries, attaining the age of superannuation, resignation and promotion to higher grade. The S.S.C. has been requsted from time to time to nominate suitable candidates for filling up the vacancies.

Mobile Phone Services in Metropolitan Cities

37. SHRI NANA DESMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL have introduced mobile phone service in Delhi and Mumbai recently on a limited scale;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when this service would be extended. to other metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b)